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## JS session summoned on Sept 7

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has summoned the session of the Jatiya Sangsad on September 7 at 3 pm, according to parliament secretariat here yesterday, reports BSS.

It will be the 10th session of the seventh parliament.

The President convened the session of the Sangsad as per authority vested on him by Clause 1 (one) of Article 72 of the Constitution.

## Rubel murder Judicial probe body records statements of 50 so far

**By Staff Correspondent**

The one-man judicial commission probing the murder of Rubel in police custody yesterday recorded the statement of Jahanara Begum, the mother of the victim.

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, who heads the commission, visited her at her residence to record the statement, said sources close to the commission.

The Commission has recorded the statements of 50 persons including witnesses and accused, so far," said a source. "It also took the opinion of 21 people including lawyers, journalists and professionals."

The statement Jahanara Begum gave to the judicial commission.

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## Floor crossing Hearing of writ challenging Speaker's ruling begins

Hearing of the writ petition challenging the Speaker's refusal to refer the dispute over floor crossing to the High Court yesterday, reports UNB.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared for the petitioners — Chief Whip of the Opposition Khondaker Delwar Hossain and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof A G M Badruzzaman Chowdhury.

Initiating his submission Barrister Moudud said the Speaker had no business excepting referring to the Election Commission the whole matter of dispute over floor crossing of the MPs Md Hasibur Rahman

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## Murder in TNO office : Three cases filed

**From Staff Correspondent**

KHULNA, Aug 20: Three separate cases have been filed with Phultala thana in connection with the murder of Damodar UP Chairman Abul Kashem and attacks on the thana parishad and police station on Tuesday.

The officer-in-charge of Phultala thana, Md Moniruzzaman, has become the investigation officer of the murder case filed on Wednesday accusing six armed cadres of the outlawed Furbo Banglar Communist Party.

Police are yet to make any headway in the investigation of

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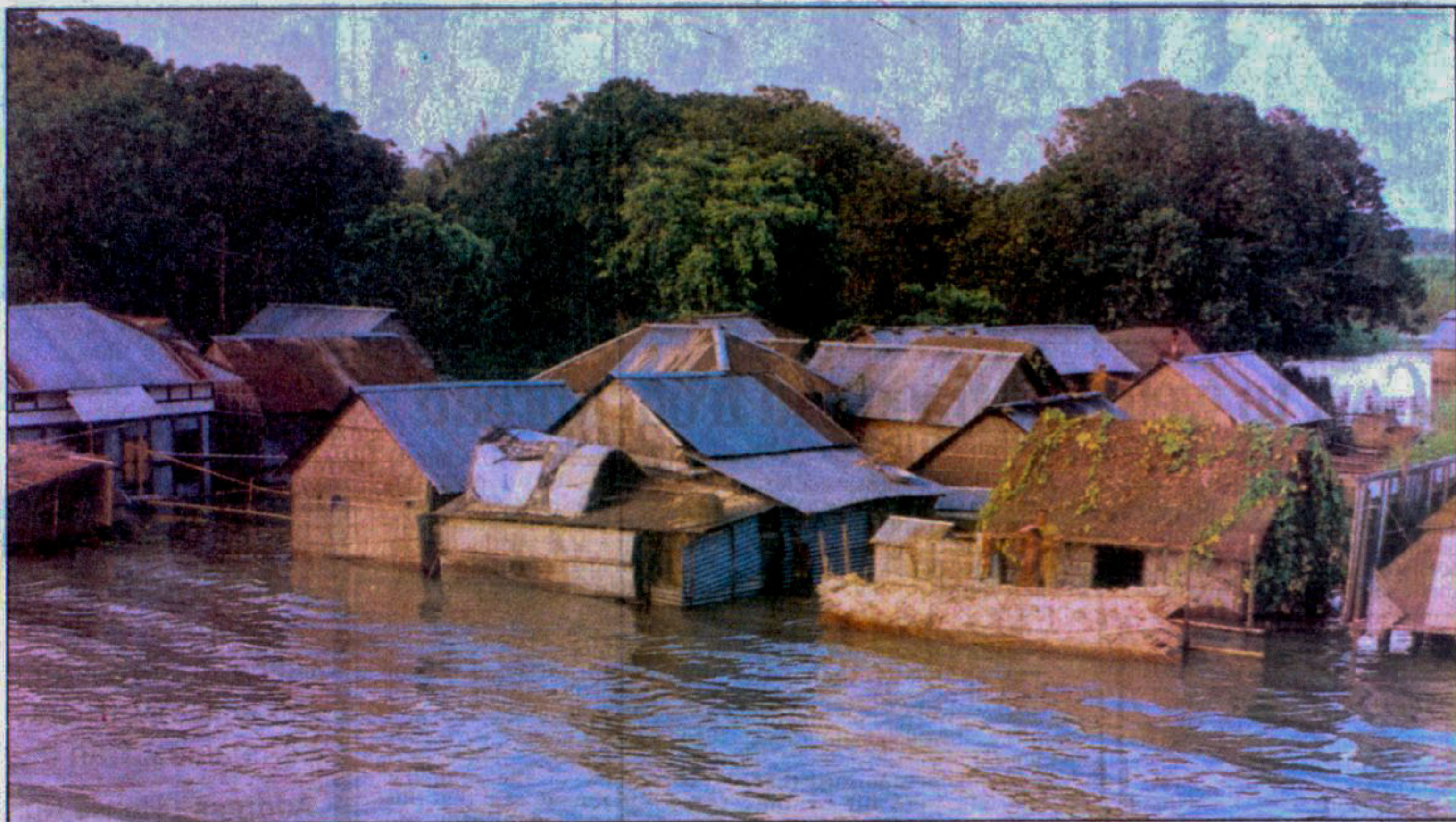
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Flood water has submerged Boromokam village under Louhajang thana in Munshiganj.

— Star photo

## Fresh areas flooded in 18 dists: 13 more die

Flood waters engulfed fresh areas in 18 districts yesterday aggravating further the overall flood situation in the country, report agencies.

A Relief Ministry control room source said 13 more people died yesterday raising the death toll to 314.

The control room said the situation remained static in seven districts while it was improving in six other districts.

The fresh deaths were reported from Kishoreganj (5), Luxmipur (4) and Barisal (4).

Officials said the flood situation took serious turn in at least five districts — Jamalpur, Faridpur, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Chapainawabganj — where flood waters submerged vast areas.

Fifteen districts where flood situation deteriorated

overnight are: Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Bogra, Brahmanbaria, Luxmipur and Barisal.

It remained static in Sherpur, Pabna, Kurigram, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Gazipur and Noakhali while the situation improved in Narsingdi, Comilla, Chandpur, Maulvibazar, Sunamganj and Sylhet districts.

The flood situation which had showed improvement in Jamalpur district took a serious turn again.

The situation in Faridpur became severe due to rise in water level of the Padma.

The road link between Sirajganj and Kazipur snapped as the road went under two-foot water. All the seven unions of

Gaibandha district have been severely affected by floods. Almost the entire district town of Gaibandha is now under flood waters.

A report from Jamalpur says, flood waters submerged the railway track between the district headquarters and Jagannathganj ghat yesterday morning snapping the rail link.

Inter-city train Padma was compelled to return to Dhaka from Jamalpur.

Links between the district headquarters and five thanas — Melandaha, Islampur, Jamalganj, Dewanganj and Bakshiganj remained snapped since Wednesday.

Another report says, fresh areas of 15 unions in Sherpur Sadar, Sreebordi and Nakhla thanas have gone under flood

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## Qatari Airbus escapes major mishap at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

The wheels and landing gear of a Qatar Airways Airbus burst into flames as its pilot used emergency brakes to avoid hitting a flock of birds during take-off at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) at 7:30 am yesterday.

Three passengers sustained minor injuries as they scrambled out of the aircraft through the escape chutes and fell on the runway. They were released after first aid. The Airbus with 216 passengers and 10 crew was on its scheduled flight to Doha.

Prompt action by five fighters at ZIA saved the plane from bursting into flames, officials of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) later said.

Take-off and landing of aircraft was suspended at the ZIA from 7:30 am to 7:15 pm as the Airbus A300-600R remained

stranded on the runway with dozens of technicians, engineers and high officials of CAAB trying to remove its charred wheels.

Departure of 10 and arrival of 12 international flights were delayed. Flight operations resumed in the evening. No domestic flight operated at ZIA during the period.

"Seconds before take off, there was a big bang and we were thrown forward due to the brake," said Mohammad Mokhtadir, a Bangladeshi passenger who was going to Abu Dhabi.

"Minutes later, through the window I could see black fumes and about three fire fighting vehicles outside. The plane was moving slowly," Mokhtadir, who hails from Sylhet, added.

He said, at one stage the crew

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## A laudable move

By Morshed Ali Khan

In a rare move, residents of the city's Madhubazar area in Dhanmondi are demolishing the boundary walls of their houses to facilitate widening the existing narrow road.

The move comes from the conscientious residents who said they reached a consensus on giving up a chunk of their precious land to facilitate smooth traffic movement in the area.

The narrow road that starts from Road 9A of Dhanmondi residential area and meets Road 15 on the western end, is eight to 10 feet wide. With the present initiative, the road will be 14 to 16 feet wide.

Abdus Sattar, a long time resident of Madhubazar and a former UP chairman of Gafargaoon, said it was not easy to or-

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Madhubazar street in Dhanmondi being widened.

— Star photo

## Minibus hits truck 8 AJM workers killed

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 20: Eight workers of Adamjee Jute Mills were killed and 30 injured when the minibus they were travelling hit a loaded truck parked along the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Dewanbag under Bandar thana at about 5:30 today, police and witnesses said.

Of the injured, 25 were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the rest were sent to the Orthopaedic Hospital, hospital sources said.

Witnesses said that the

minibus was carrying about 50 workers of the mill, some on its roof. The truck parked on the road side was loaded with fertilizer.

Seven persons died on the spot and another died on way to hospital.

The dead were identified as: Mafizuddin, 40; Abdul Quddus, 35; Abul Hussain, 40; Shukkur Ali, 50; Noor Islam, 50; A Sabur, 48; A Rab, 30 and Mantu Mia, 40.

The bodies were sent to their

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## As they refused to take 'low quality' tiffin

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 20: Students of Kushtia Government Girls' High School brought out a procession today in protest against caning of students by the Head Mistress after they refused to take tiffin as it was of very 'low quality'.

The students also protested against supply of low quality tiffin yesterday and refused to take the tiffin. The processionists paraded the main streets of the town and handed over a memorandum containing their

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## Embassy bombings in Kenya, Tanzania US forces strike 'terrorist bases' in Sudan, Afghanistan

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Massachusetts, Aug 20: US forces today attacked a terrorist base in Afghanistan and a chemical weapons-related facility in Sudan, President Bill Clinton said, report agencies.

He linked the facilities to the twin bombings at US embassies in East Africa two weeks ago.

"We have convincing evidence these groups played the key role in the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania," Clinton said in a hastily-called news conference before cutting short his vacation to return to Washington. "Today, we have struck back."

Further US "operations" could be carried out following military strikes against terror-

ist installations in Afghanistan and Sudan today, US Defence Secretary William Cohen said.

"There might be other operations that may be required," Cohen told a press conference after US President Bill Clinton announced US attacks on a terrorist base in Afghanistan and a chemical weapons-related facility in Sudan.

Following is US President Bill Clinton's announcement that the United States attacked a terrorist base in Afghanistan and a chemical weapons-related facility in Sudan today:

"Good afternoon, today, I ordered our armed forces to strike at terrorist-related facilities in Afghanistan and Sudan

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because of the threat they present to our national security.

"I have said many times that terrorism is one of the greatest dangers we face in this new global era. We saw its twisted mentality at work last week in the embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar as Salaam, which took the lives of innocent Americans and Africans and injured thousands more.

"Today, we have struck back. The United States launched an attack this morning on one of the most active terrorist bases in the world. It is located in Afghanistan and operated by group affiliated with Osama bin Laden, a network not sponsored by any state, but as dangerous

## Armed gang loot three jewellery shops in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 20: A group of armed miscreants looted three jewellery shops at Mimi Super Market at Nasirabad in the city today by firing shots and exploding cocktails.

A jeweller was injured in the attack.

The injured jeweller, Ninku Banik, was admitted to a private clinic with stab and bullet wounds.

Police and witnesses said the miscreants had entered the first floor of the market posing as customers. One of them was carrying a briefcase.

At one stage, they looted three jewellery shops at gunpoint, police said.

When the shop owners and staff attempted to resist, the miscreants fired shots and exploded crackers and decamped with the looted ornaments in

auto-rickshaws.

The total value of the looted ornaments could not be known immediately, police said.

The incident created tension in the entire area. The shop owners shut all the shops in the market and put up a barricade on the Nasirabad Road in front of the market protesting the incident.

The barricade was later withdrawn but market remained shut till the evening.

Shop Owners' Association later alleged that a police team, deployed at the market, played a silent role when the incident took place.

But police officials dismissing the allegation said that the police team on duty chased the miscreants who hurriedly fled away.

## US conducted 26 joint military exercises in Bangladesh : FS

Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman yesterday said the United States has conducted 26 joint military exercises in Bangladesh since 1991, reports UNB.

"This is nothing new. This is a routine matter," he told a correspondent who asked to know why the US has been showing so much military interest in Bangladesh.

At a weekly press briefing at the Foreign Office yesterday, the foreign secretary said that in the past, newspapers were not much interested in this matter, but now they are showing more interest.

In reply to a question about US military exercise dubbed as Sea Bat-98, Mustafiz said it is an exercise scheduled to be held here from August 21 to 28.

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